

**SACS Commission on Colleges**

**“Distance Education and the *Principles of Accreditation: Documenting Compliance*”**

**Issued January 2010**

Additional detail pertaining to expectations, considerations, and best practices for distance education are provided for SACS core requirements and comprehensive standards. The guidelines indicate an increased scrutiny of accrediting agencies to ensure that the same standards and compliance guidelines are applicable to both campus and distance education courses and programs.

The shift of distance education from an activity peripheral to the overall academic mission of post-secondary institutions to a widely-accepted means for providing additional learning opportunities is evident in guidelines tailored to the unique elements of distance education. The compliance standards detail expectations for appropriate technology support, services tailored to students remote from campus, and the establishment and measurement of student success criteria.